

# Public Document Pack



**Service Director – Legal, Governance and  
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Monday 18 March 2024

## Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

### Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The **Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **2.00 pm** on **Tuesday 26 March 2024**.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Muscroft', on a light-colored background.

**Julie Muscroft**

**Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning**

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

## **The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee members are:-**

### **Member**

Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)

Councillor Bill Armer

Councillor Andrew Cooper

Councillor Hannah McKerchar

Councillor Shabir Pandor

# Agenda

## Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

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### Pages

**1: Membership of Committee**

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

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**2: Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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**3: Declaration of Interests**

9 - 10

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

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**4: Admission of the Public**

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Committee.

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**5: Deputations/Petitions**

The Committee will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

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## **6: Financial Management - Focus on Capital and Borrowing**

The Service Director, Finance will give a presentation in respect of Capital and Borrowing.

Contact: Isabel Brittain, Service Director, Finance

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## **7: Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan and Strategic Intelligence Assessment** 11 - 32

A report will be submitted which sets out the high-level findings emerging from the annual refresh of Kirklees Strategic Intelligence Assessment and suggests priorities for the Communities Partnership Plan refresh for 2024-25.

The report also highlights the work that has taken place 2023-24.

Contact: Sarah Mitchell, Head of Communities  
Chris Walsh, Safer Kirklees Manager  
Lee Hamilton, Safer Kirklees Manager

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## **8: Lead Members' Updates** 33 - 40

The Lead Members for the Children's Scrutiny Panel and the Adult and Social Care Scrutiny Panel will update the Committee on the work being undertaken by their panels.

Contact: Sheila Dykes – Principal Governance Officer

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## **9: Work Programme 2023-24** 41 - 50

The latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for 2023-24 will be submitted for consideration.

Contact: Sheila Dykes – Principal Governance Officer

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Contact Officer: Sheila Dykes

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Tuesday 27th February 2024**

Present: Councillor Elizabeth Smaje (Chair)  
Councillor Bill Armer  
Councillor Andrew Cooper  
Councillor Shabir Pandor

**70 Membership of Committee**

All Members of the Committee were in attendance.

**71 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

The Chair updated the Committee as follows:

- (i) The new Flood Risk Management Strategy had been submitted to Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The report had included the comments and recommendations made by the Committee, at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, and Cabinet had agreed to adopt the new strategy.
- (ii) At the meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the provision of further detail had been requested in respect of the partnership work on tree planting and the Council's participation in the 'Vision Zero' road safety management initiative. This information had now been shared with Members.

**72 Declaration of Interests**

No Interests were declared.

**73 Admission of the Public**

All items were considered in public session.

**74 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**75 Public Question Time**

No public questions were received.

**76 Financial Management - Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring and Annual Budget**

The Service Director - Finance, Isabel Brittain, submitted the Corporate Financial Monitoring Report – Quarter 3 and the Annual Budget Report 2024-25.

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 27 February 2024

Councillor Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration, introduced the item explaining that the Council's financial situation had improved significantly and the predicted overspend by the end of the financial year had been reduced due to the savings achieved.

The following points were highlighted in the presentation:

- The Budget Report would be presented to full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- It had been a challenging year but a balanced budget had been produced.
- The budget included significant new savings which equated to £34 million.
- There had been a contribution to reserves from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- There had been an improvement in the position at the end of Quarter 3, with an overspend of £9.9 million pounds compared with £16 million in the previous period. This had been achieved through undertaking a number of central budget challenges including reducing the costs of capital financing and service expenditure from reduction of non-essential spend.
- There were still a number of pressures, particularly in Children and Families, Adults and Health and Growth and Regeneration.
- Further work would be undertaken with the aim of achieving an outturn position with a further reduced overspend.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- Detail in respect of the pressures on Children and Families, and Adults and Health services and the mitigations, which included:
  - Work to provide integration support across all elements of Children Services
  - Reviewing the careers contract for the Kirklees and Calderdale joint partnership.
  - Reviewing the mental health offer to families
  - A re-design of youth work within Children and Families.
  - A significant project to review the delivery of adult services, across a number of areas of work, to ensure that financial costs were relevant and realistic and achieved best value. This might include review of the direct payment policy, community based integrated library redesign, older people and physical disability services redesign and cultural fees and charges.
- In response to a question in respect of the approach and opportunities for income generation in the future, it was acknowledged that additional income streams could be investigated further but a cautious approach should be taken to ensure that there would be no financial risk to the taxpayer.
- It was suggested that consideration could be given to the establishment of a vehicle to deliver direct services to residents, or the use of Municipal Climate Bonds, which had been adopted by a number of other Councils; such initiatives being considered to be of lower risk.
- The aim was to reduce the projected £9.9 million further by the end of the financial year and there were some opportunities to achieve this. If the overspend was reduced this would retain more money in reserves and place the Council in a more resilient position for the future.

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 27 February 2024

- It was acknowledged that spend in Quarter 1 of the new municipal year may be higher, due to deferred spending, but this was a normal occurrence and would be balanced out over the remainder of the year. In addition, a number of service re-designs would be implemented and essential spend only would continue.
- Capitalisation was currently only used for transformation projects, apart from the general Capital Programme. There was a consultation ongoing in respect of proposals to allow Councils in significant financial difficulty to capitalise some revenue overspend in the future. Kirklees was not considering this at the present time and would continue to capitalise revenue in accordance with Government guidelines.
- A report was to be submitted to Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, alongside the budget documents, in respect of the new powers available to local authorities, as legislated for in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, in relation to long-term empty properties and second homes. The relevant exemptions would be confirmed by the Government in due course. These new powers were welcomed and it was hoped that they would have a similar effect to the previous initiative, in terms of properties being returned to the market.
- It was clarified that authority would be delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to enable the policy to be amended once the final detail was confirmed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Changes to the strategy would need to be referred to Cabinet and Council.

Thanks were expressed to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration and the Service Director – Finance for the report.

### 77 Annual Review - Local Flood Risk Management

A report was submitted which provided an annual review of activity in respect of local flood risk management.

Councillor Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration, introduced the item stressing that, particularly in light of the increased risk due to climate change, this work was very important in order to try and mitigate flood risk as much as possible for local residents.

Paul Farndale, Acting Team Leader - Flood Management and Drainage presented the report highlighting the following points:

- The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, that had been presented to the Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, had now been approved by Cabinet and replaced the 2012 version.
- An update, further to the presentation to the Committee in March 2023, in respect of the natural flood management partnership project at Wessenden Head. This work aligned with the 'protect' theme within the strategy, using various nature-based solutions to slow the flow of water and reduce the risk of flooding downstream. A high-level study had been undertaken to consider opportunities for such work across all areas of Kirklees and was due to be presented to stakeholders on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 27 February 2024

- There was a rolling programme of schemes and the team worked very closely with the Environment Agency to attract funding.
- An outline of the process that would be followed for larger projects.
- The number of schemes had increased since the previous report in 2023.
- One of the projects falling under the 'recovery' theme was a pioneering mental health and wellbeing project, led by Kirklees, which aimed to build resilience within communities where flooding was an issue.
- The approach to flooding was centred on the management of risks and risk was a product of the likelihood of an event happening and the severity of its consequences. There was an increased focus on the detrimental effect of flooding on people, in terms of both local and national strategies, and the aim of making communities more resilient.

Jason Hanks, Project Officer - Flood Management, shared a presentation on the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project explaining:

- This pilot project had been developed in partnership with the West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Project (WY FLIP) and alongside the Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (ICASP).
- WY FLIP was an innovative, collaborative approach, involving the five West Yorkshire local authorities, which had been developed to share ideas and experience and to identify innovative ways to secure investment into flood resilience.
- ICASP was a support service with links to local universities.
- Each local authority took a lead on a particular theme. Kirklees' theme was 'Community and Voluntary', the main focus of which was to help the community and voluntary sector to be better prepared and recover more quickly.
- The thinking behind the creation of the project with the purpose being to raise awareness of mental health amongst flood communities and to address the issues by working with mental health charity partners, providing a check-in service, psychological first aid training and support, facilitating regular events with a flood resilience focus or to link in with natural flood management projects and provision of useful information for the community.
- The Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Group had approved the recent funding bid.

Paul Farndale explained that, in terms of the 'prepare and respond' theme of the strategy, the Council maintained a large database of past flooding incidents and a record of relevant assets. This information was needed to inform project bids, was used to advise the planning department in terms of flood risk for any proposed development and also fed into the authority's emergency planning work and severe weather plan.

Martin Jordan, Senior Emergency Planning Officer gave a presentation which highlighted the following:

- Kirklees Severe Weather Plan dictated how the Council responded to the impacts of a range of weather and how the plan could be activated at three levels, which were triggered by warnings and alerts from partners.



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- Many Council teams took a role in the response and were provided with action cards to set out the options that they should consider at each level of activation. There was an option to establish a formal command structure if needed, supported by an emergency control room.
- There was a hybrid working approach and the aim was to build relationships and to understand capabilities and interdependencies with ongoing communication via a 'Whatsapp' group which was also used out of hours.
- The plan provided a framework for the response but it was also vital that good communication and relationships were built and maintained.
- The plan was tested at least one year, and exercises took place that could involve multi-agency partners.
- Debriefing was undertaken following an activation of the plan so that any lessons could be learned.
- The use of a collaborative approach during a flooding incident, alongside other Council teams and partners, and with reports from Councillors, residents, front-line officers and a wide range of partners and other public and private organisations feeding into the intelligence-led response.
- The Flood Spotters initiative and the role of the 44 Council staff who had been recruited and trained as flood spotters. There were also 130 emergency volunteers.

A brief outline was given in respect of the work to be undertaken over next twelve months. A significant focus was expected to be related to the review of the Local Plan, which would require an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment using the latest modelling. In addition, further information was awaited from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in respect of the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The value of the work undertaken in engaging with local communities in building confidence and getting them involved in dealing with the issues.
- Funding from the Combined Authority for the scheme at Queens Mill Road and Albert Road, Huddersfield was welcomed.
- In respect of the mental health and wellbeing project, although there would be work undertaken in the aftermath of an event, consultation with mental health charities had suggested that prevention was better than cure and this would therefore be a significant element of this project.
- Although Kirklees did provide sandbags there was no obligation on it to do so. There were eleven areas in the district where pre-deployment was currently in place and two of those were trialling the use of floodsacs. Sandbags and floodsacs had limitations so property level flood protection, such as floodgates, were a better option and provided a quicker response. There was a need to raise awareness and encourage residents to take this up.
- Debris screens were a necessary evil to stop large objects blocking culverts. The programme for clearing them took into account the level of associated risk, further to information being gathered about the levels of debris in locations. Some of those which would not affect property if they failed had now been changed to be on a more reactive basis. Those where it would affect property

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 27 February 2024

were on an ongoing two-weekly cycle to reduce the risk and some would be prioritised if there was a weather warning. There was also a rolling programme to upgrade these screens.

- Base models would be established so that it could be ascertained whether future natural flood management measures had improved the position and slowed to flow of surface water but this approach took a very long-term view.
- It was suggested that the use of property level protection should be included in the Council Update to raise awareness with Councillors who could consider whether it might be beneficial for any property in their ward. for their areas.
- The position and approach in respect of engagement with Yorkshire Water to try and reduce contamination spills from combined sewer overflows in severe weather and the importance of this work being taken forward.
- An explanation of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and its role in respect of the Local Plan and allocation of development sites.
- Although there were mechanisms in place to provide information to those areas/residents where flooding had happened in the past it was suggested that it would also be helpful to provide information, perhaps via social media, if severe weather was anticipated, so that people who might be experiencing it for the first time would know who to contact for advice/ assistance. Relevant telephone numbers were available on the Council's website but this would be considered alongside the Communications Team.

### Resolved –

- (1) That the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project be welcomed as an excellent initiative.
- (2) That efforts be made to raise the awareness of all Councillors in respect of the benefits and possibilities in relation to the use of property level protection against flooding.
- (3) That engagement with Yorkshire Water be pursued at a regional level to examine the potential to reduce contamination spills from combined sewer overflows in severe weather.
- (4) That consideration be given to providing information, in the event of severe weather, to ensure that people who may be experiencing flooding for the first time are aware of who to contact for advice and assistance.

## 78 Technology Strategy – Update

Andy Simcox - Service Director for Strategy and Innovation and Terence Hudson Head of Technology gave a presentation highlighting the following points

- The current Technology Strategy covered the period 2020 to 2025.
- A refresh of the strategy was planned within the next 18 months with the aim of ensuring that it continued to align with the Council's priorities and reflected the challenges being faced.
- Delivery of key strategic outcomes including:
  - Face to face provision within the Civic Centre Campus.
  - Progression of the procurement of a new corporate data network contract.
  - Implementation of the new Adult Social Care system (which had just gone live).

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- The deployment of additional cyber security controls.
- Ongoing work in respect of digital inclusion and accessibility.
- Access to gigabit capable broadband for 85% of the district's households.
- Updates in terms of My Kirklees Account and digital transactions.
- Updates to the governance of IT investment projects, to ensure oversight at corporate level, including the formation of four strategic directorate boards.
- Details of the achievements in respect of tactical cashable savings.
- Re-profiling of the Capital Plan.
- An update in respect of telephony and the impact of changes in respect of the removal of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) infrastructure and turn-off of the 2G and 3G mobile phone networks, particularly for vulnerable residents.
- Maintenance of a view of risk.

Questions and comments were invited from Committee Members, with the following issues being covered:

- The importance of ensuring that residents, particularly those who were vulnerable, were not excluded by the increased use of digital methods, with reference to the future operational model of customer contact centres; a consultation on which was ongoing. Assurance was given that an Integrated Impact Assessment would be undertaken in respect of any changes proposed and these issues would be taken into account in designing the future service model.
- In respect of the potential utilisation of the heat produced by data centres, this could be considered. However, the current equipment used substantially less energy than in the past and was not generating a significant level of heat. There would also be a need to take into the potential longevity of this as an asset.
- There was an awareness of the environmental impact of data centres and this was included within the climate plan. The authority's data centre was naturally cooled and no air conditioning was required.
- The current hybrid/flexible model of working was considered to be the right one for the authority to offer, both in terms of competition for recruitment and the personal wellbeing of staff. It was believed to be working both well and effectively. It was noted that the accommodation at Civic Centre I was now much improved.
- The service worked closely with other teams to ensure alignment with other Council strategies such as those related to the environment and people.
- PSTN lines were the traditional telephone lines and once that infrastructure was removed telephone calls would only be possible over the internet. This would mean that during an internet failure it would not be possible to make telephone calls and a back-up option, such as a mobile phone, would therefore be necessary. Further issues could be caused in the event of a power cut, in areas served by smaller mobile phone masts, and this was being discussed at national level to ensure that people were protected. The authority was mindful of this.

### **Resolved –**

That the Service Director – Strategy and Innovation and the Head of Technology be thanked for attending the meeting and providing the update on the Technology Strategy.

**79 Lead Members' Updates**

Updates were submitted in respect of the work of the Growth & Regeneration and the Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Panels.

**80 Work Programme 2023-24**

The latest version of the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/24 was submitted for consideration.

<b>KIRKLEES COUNCIL</b>			
<b>COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC</b>			
<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>			
Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee			
Name of Councillor			
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

## NOTES

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
- (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



**Report title: Kirklees Communities Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>26 March 2024</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b> (if applicable)	<b>Cllr Mussarat Pervaiz</b>
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>No – this is a Scrutiny update</b>
<p><b>Purpose of Report</b>                  To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level findings emerging from the annual refresh of the Kirklees Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA)</li> <li>• Suggested priorities for the Communities Plan refresh for 2024/5</li> <li>• Highlight the work that has taken place during 2023/4</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b>                  OSMC to note the report and provide feedback on the high-level findings of the SIA and Communities Plan priorities for 2024/5</p>	

<b>Resource Implication:</b> There are no resource implications	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Tom Brailsford – Strategic Director Childrens Services 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	N/A
	N/A

**Electoral wards affected:** All Wards.

**Ward councillors consulted:** The SIA refresh is being discussed with ward Councillors at Safer Kirklees briefings and the opportunity to comment will be offered to political group via cross party membership of the Communities Board

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

## **1. Executive Summary**

Annually the Communities Board conducts a refresh of the Kirklees Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) and subsequent refresh of the Communities Plan priorities.

A summary report for the Overview and Scrutiny and Management Committee of the refresh is provided.

The report provides a high-level overview of key findings of the SIA, summary of the Communities Plan priorities based on the SIA data which the Communities Board and wider theme and place-based partnership meetings have considered.

The report also highlights progress in key areas as requested by the Chair of OSMC with a highlight report as appendices for Serious Violence, Inclusive Communities Framework and Drugs and Alcohol.

### **1.1 Information required to take a decision.**

#### **a. Background**

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act placed a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to develop a strategic plan which addresses multi-agency community safety issues affecting quality of life for residents. In Kirklees the CSP is called the Communities Board.

The SIA focuses on the 4 themes in the Communities Partnership Plan:

- Violence and Exploitation
- Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour
- Resilient & Inclusive Communities
- Reducing Risk

The strategic themes in the Partnership Plan are developed using the findings from an SIA which brings together analysis of multi-agency intelligence from across community safety partners. The Partnership SIA is used to work to ensure the Partnership Plan Themes remain valid and any exceptions / areas of future focus are highlighted.

The SIA development is supported by the Council's Data and Insight Service working alongside the Communities Service and partners. How we conduct the SIA going forward and how we can view Kirklees, Place and ward and neighbourhood assets and community risks is being revised.

#### **b. Expected outcomes benefits and risks.**

The reason for the refresh of the SIA and Communities Plan is to ensure we are refocussing partnership support, as required, based on data and insight. This annual cycle ensures we are focussing resources on priorities that are the highest risk and concern that impact on communities. The risk is we if don't do this annually we work from out-of-date data and insight.

#### **c. Services and agencies involved.**

This year's SIA refresh has involved a wide range of stakeholders.
















- In December 2023 key partners for each of the Theme areas of the plan have met to discuss the data and add their own service or organisation's perspective. Those involved were key Council Services, Police, Fire Service, Integrated Care Board (ICB), Criminal Justice, Victims Support etc.
- In January 2024 Place based sessions have also taken place to hear localised feedback from key services and stakeholders.
- In February 2024 the Communities Board Strategic Delivery Group held a session to look at the Theme and place feedback and then made recommendations to the Communities Board.



- In March 2024 the Communities Board considered the feedback and from that revised the prioritisation of 2 key areas under the Theme of ‘Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour and also ‘Violence and Exploitation’.

**d. SIA key highlights and Partnership plan priorities**

The Partnership Plan sets out how partners will work collaboratively to create a safer Kirklees. The current areas sitting under each of the Themes are Red Amber Green (RAG) rated based on issues raised in the SIA and performance against partnership indicators and measures. Although the areas are RAG rated this is only to highlight those considered highest priority for the Board and partnership. This will inform the development of a delivery plan for the Board and Theme groups for 2024/5.

Serious Violence and Exploitation	Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
<p> <b>Serious violence</b> – Has reduced and there has been a period of stability but is still a priority and the Board will have oversight of the implementation of the serious violence duty.</p> <p> <b>Violence Against Women and Girls</b> keeping in view, good work progressing.</p> <p> <b>Domestic Abuse</b> incidents have reduced but Domestic Homicide Reviews for Kirklees are high. Good work is progressing to implement the new approach to commissioning services for victims of Domestic Abuse and the implementation of the Domestic Abuse strategy continues.</p> <p> <b>Modern Day Slavery</b> and Human Trafficking increase in referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which is positive with regards to awareness. 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest in West Yorkshire for Cuckooing which has been aligned to increased awareness and reporting of such safeguarding concerns.</p> <p> <b>Youth Exploitation</b> there has been a reduction but still a priority and an ask to all to be aware, spot signs and report issues and concerns.</p>	<p> <b>Neighbourhood Crime</b> (e.g. Burglary / Vehicle Crime) remains higher for certain elements e.g. theft of vehicles but it is projected that there will be a reduction from the 2023/4 figure.</p> <p> <b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b> (e.g. Personal / Nuisance / Environmental) remains a high priority some elements are starting to decrease but only gradually and environmental is increasing.</p>
Resilient and Inclusive Communities - <i>to be reviewed as a theme and to have in view cross cutting issues</i>	Reducing Risk
<p> <b>Hate Crime</b> reduction overall but increase in Faith related hate crime and potential wider factors could also impact on this in 2024/5.</p> <p> <b>Inclusive Communities Framework</b> work is progressing but more to do as we move in to 2024/5 so keeping as a priority.</p> <p> <b>Migration and Asylum</b> an area of concern for 2024/5 with pending large asylum Home Office led site as has been highlighted in the media.</p> <p> <b>PREVENT</b> still classed as priority status but Kirklees are recognised by the Home Office as working well to reduce risk.</p> <p> <b>Community Tensions</b> due to a number of international and local issues remains a priority.</p>	<p> <b>Road Safety</b> based on residents’ concerns and fatalities remains a priority.</p> <p> <b>Water Safety</b> a concern at key peak times to continue to prioritise.</p> <p> <b>Drugs and Alcohol</b> concerns raised about the impact this has on a range of crimes so keeping as a priority.</p> <p> <b>Reducing Re-offending</b> this has reduced but still a priority for the Plan.</p>

### **e. Delivering on the Communities Plan 2024/5**

The feedback from OSMC will be fed back to the Communities Board extraordinary meeting in May 2024 at which priorities will then be confirmed and a clear delivery plan will be developed and adopted. The Board will provide challenge, support and highlight the good work partners deliver across Kirklees and the Communities Partnership Plan during 2024/5.

## **2. Implications for the Council**

### **2.1 Working with People**

The Communities Partnership Plan will continue to put the victims and witnesses of crime and disorder at the heart of our approach. We already incorporate lived experience but, we want to be better at capturing the lived experience of our most vulnerable residents to inform future service delivery. We acknowledge that supporting the victims and witness of crime and disorder, including repeat victims, cuts across all aspects of any Communities Plan, and we will continue to work closely with colleagues in Adult and Children's safeguarding to ensure our most vulnerable individuals and communities are supported.

Our restorative approach of working 'with' local people and elected members to solve problems at the earliest possible opportunity complements our overarching work around prevention and early intervention, building on the positives within communities.

In 2024/5 we want to develop further how the voices and experiences of communities' help shape the services and support we deliver and improve how we work alongside communities to prevent and resolve community issues that impact of staying safe.

### **2.2 Working with Partners**

It is vital that partners work collaboratively and with local communities to create safer communities and provide reassurance. The Communities Partnership Plan will continue to build upon the relationships already in place, such as utilising approaches from Public Health and the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) to tackle root causes of serious violence and harnessing the expertise and capacity in local communities to achieve the desired shared outcomes.

The cross-cutting nature of crime and disorder means that collaboration with other Boards is essential in achieving successful outcomes and will be progressed further in 2024/5. Issues such as Exploitation and Youth Violence are priorities for both the Communities Board and the Kirklees Children's Safeguarding Board therefore continuing to build collaboration and identifying shared outcomes and approaches is essential to our success moving forward.

### **2.3 Place Based Working**

It is critical that the diverse geography and communities of Kirklees are at the forefront of delivering the Communities Partnership Plan. During 2024/5 we will prioritise further how we have oversight of how the Communities Plan is delivered at a place based and community level where need is clearly evidenced. The SIA has developed a place-based approach which will continue to progress during the new financial year. We need to target partnership responses and resources where they are needed most based-on data and community insight, this is a key part of the Communities plan going forward.

### **2.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

As part of our commitment to climate change and air quality Safer Kirklees continue to use electric vehicles which enables our Community and Environmental Support Officers (CESO) to travel across the district in an environmentally friendly way. Virtual working has resulted in a significant decrease in the use of paper for partnership meetings with most if not all meetings being paper free. The Partnership does however still acknowledge the need and benefit of meeting face to face, especially with local communities, residents and the most vulnerable and continues to increase its visibility post restrictions.

## **2.5 Improving outcomes for children**

By refreshing and ensuring the Partnership Plan is updated based on the data and insight available in the SIA, this will work to ensure that children and families under the themes of the partnership plan will be supported by the partnership to stay safe and live in cohesive communities. The work of the Communities Board will link with the agreed work and priorities of the Kirklees Childrens Safeguarding Partnership.

The strategic themes within the Partnership Plan all have an impact upon children and young people within Kirklees. We have made significant investment in children and young people in our approach to Domestic Abuse and our work to reduce violence in those aged under 25s in partnership with the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership, which should support the prevention of future generations becoming involved in/or the victim of serious crime.

The Partnership are also engaging in new and emerging issues such as water safety where we will look to reduce this risk at the earliest opportunity through education, prevention and early intervention.

## **2.6 Financial Implications**

There is no financial implication to be considered or decided on as part of this report. However, it's important to note that being the victim of crime, anti-social behaviour or road safety problems has a significant impact on individuals and communities at both an emotional and economic perspective. Research has shown a recurrent pattern of increases in acquisitive crimes such as burglary and shoplifting during economic downturns, there is also some evidence highlighting diversification of offending into lower risk / higher gain offending such as fraud (including online). Where tensions are reduced and communities are more inclusive, there are more opportunities for collaborative working to achieve shared outcomes.

## **3.7 Legal Implications**

The Partnership in exercising its requirements under Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 should prepare an annual PSIA and prepare and implement a Community Safety Plan.

## **3.8 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

None

## **3. Consultation**

December 2023 four Theme group consultation sessions involving a wide range of key stakeholders

- December 2023 partnership Theme sessions with a wide range of stakeholders.
- January 2024 four Place based sessions took place.
- February 2024 The Communities Board Strategic Delivery Group held a session.
- In March 2024 the Communities Board considered the feedback and from that revised the priority of 2 key areas under the Theme of Neighbourhood Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour and also Violence and Exploitation.

## **6 Options**

This is an annual update on the SIA and Communities Plan, there are no options to be considered as a decision is not required.

### **6.1 Options Considered**

N/A

### **6.2 Reasons for recommended Option**

N/A

## **7. Next steps and timelines**

- a. The final SIA, engagement feedback and recommendations will be discussed at Communities Board in May 2024.
- b. A Communities Board high level delivery plan with 4 Theme plans will be developed. These will be overseen by the Communities Board Strategic Delivery Group who will escalate any underperformance or risks to the Board as well as ensuring good partnership work is recognised and shared to talk positively about the good work that does take place working alongside communities and citizens in Kirklees.
- c. Place based oversight and delivery of the Communities Plan and SIA will take place in 2024/5 ensuring working together we make the most of the resources available to the Partnership.

## **8 Contact officer**

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## **9 Background Papers and History of Decisions**

A summary of the high-level refresh of the Strategic Intelligence Assessment is appended to this report. Scrutiny has been engaged with in the development of the current Partnership Plan.

## **10 Appendices**

Appendix 1: Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Communities Plan refresh

Appendix 2: Serious Violence progress report

Appendix 3: Inclusive Communities Framework progress report

Appendix 4: Drugs and Alcohol highlight report

Appendix 5: Update on actions from the Feb 2023 OSMC

## **11 Service Director responsible**

Jill Greenfield Service Director Communities and Access Services

## Appendix 1 – Strategic Intelligence Assessment Refresh 2024 and Communities Plan Refresh

### Theme 1: Violence and Exploitation

#### Serious Violence - Amber

Following several high-profile Serious Violence incidents in 2022, the district has had a period of stability and reduction in incidents involving Urban Street Gangs (USGs) / Organised Criminal Gangs (OCGs). Work from the Partnership Police to tackle known nominals has certainly provided some disruption in Huddersfield.

Overall serious violent offences within Kirklees are reducing and proactive violence reduction plans are progressing that sight 6 Wards based on evidence - these will be developed much further during 2024/5.

**See appendix 2 for further information.**

#### Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) – Amber

A Kirklees VAWG pledge has been developed and additional funding has been secured to tackle VAWG in the District.

Examples of activities delivered in Kirklees to tackle VAWG includes:

**Ask for Angela** a national safety scheme, launched in Kirklees in December 2021. Over 100 venues in town centres across Kirklees including pubs, clubs, restaurants and local libraries now support the scheme. By simply asking for 'Angela' at participating venues a person can indicate they need help to get out of a situation where they may feel unsafe or vulnerable. Venue staff will take discreet action like reuniting the person with friends, calling a taxi or providing a safe space.

Information packs and training has been provided to venues along with several action days where mock Ask for Angela scenarios have been trialled to ascertain compliance. Alongside dedicated Spotify Ads, 3 promotional videos have been produced which are now available on You Tube and other social media sites:

- [Ask For Angela – The Man Outside The Pub – YouTube](#)
- [Ask For Angela – The Date – YouTube](#)
- [Ask For Angela – The Night Out – YouTube](#)

Additional funding has been brought into the district to support the Partnership in tackling VAWG and serious violence through the Safer Street 5 initiative. Following on from Safer Streets 3 and 4 which looked at the safety of women and girls in Parks and Open Spaces.

In 2023 the Partnership was successful in a bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), for a dedicated scheme of work to tackle VAWG. Following Kirklees grants panels, funding has been awarded to support the Night Safety Bus for the Night-Time Economy, Active Bystander Training in local communities, using theatre in education to prevent young people from being drawn into exploitation and creating safe spaces for communities to talk about Domestic Abuse and violence.

Over **240 Safe Zones** have been established across the district in 2023-24 which provides people, particularly young people with a safe place to go should they fear crime or violence.

#### Domestic Abuse – Red and a high priority for the partnership

Total Domestic Abuse (DA) incidents are reducing and equally so are the repeat incidents, but we do have a high number of Domestic Homicide Reviews ongoing. Work is continuing to progress in Kirklees to support the delivery of the Domestic Abuse strategy [Domestic abuse | Kirklees Council](#). There has also very recently been Cabinet approval to progress a new approach to commissioning services for high-risk victims of Domestic Abuse, this work will really start to progress from April 2024 working alongside all key Council Services and key pa

For more information please see [Achieving better outcomes for victims of domestic abuse - Kirklees Together](#) and for information and advice on existing help and support please see this link [Get help and support | Kirklees Council](#)

## Modern Day Slavery- Amber

The number of **modern slavery referrals has increased**. This is positive as this means more people are aware of the NRM. During 2023/24, there has been a comprehensive awareness programme to make sure partnership staff know what Modern Day Slavery is and the ways in which cases can be referred – the increase in referrals is testament to the success of this training.

Cuckooing, a practice where people take over a person's home and use the property for some form of exploitation, remains a priority in Kirklees; **we have one of the highest numbers of reports of suspected cuckooed addresses** in West Yorkshire (June 2023). The reports do mean partners are aware and report when they have concerns.

There are several factors that impact the number of flagged cuckooed properties which include:

- The efficiency of West Yorkshire Police and partners, within a district, at identifying and flagging properties suspected of being cuckooed.
- The volume of intelligence received in local communities which indicate that addresses are being cuckooed.
- Targeted operations which focus on cuckooed properties. These operations can often involve an element of county lines, drug supply or sexual exploitation.
- Awareness and training amongst partners and communities in recognising the signs of cuckooing and how to report any occurrences of which Kirklees is the only area offering this training in WY for partners.

## Youth Exploitation - Amber

There has been a **reduction in the number of young people at risk of exploitation**. We have identified areas where the risk is higher that is overseen by the Strategic and Operational Exploitation Groups

Risk of harm outside the home remains a focus of the partnership, the response remains to be a coordinated collaborative approach in identification and response. Information sharing and earlier intervention remains key to achieving our ambitions and reducing risk. Key agency awareness and identification of young people at risk at the earliest opportunity enables intervention to take place sooner and more often when risk has not become significant.

In 2022 A joint Targeted Inspection was carried out reviewing Kirklees response to exploitation and identified the processes and response through a partnership approach to be exemplary. Those processes at the time were in their infancy and multiple partners have and continue to work in collaboration to refine process, improve early identification and develop more effective response. The principles of increased awareness, a coordinated response and a collaborative approach have all contributed to the reduction of young people identified as being at risk of exploitation.

## Theme 2 - Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

### Neighbourhood Crime Amber

The trend for the **total number of crimes** is showing as slightly **increasing**, although it is projected for 2023/24 there will be a reduction from the 2022/23 figure. The increasing trend is due to increases in **drug related offences, theft, and robbery**. COVID did see a reduction in offences, but recent trends have been upwards – particularly in **rural areas** although the volume offences continue to be in **urban, more deprived areas**.

Latest figures for **Vehicle Crime** show a **small reduction in theft from vehicles** and an **increase in theft of vehicles**. Thefts from vehicles tend to target either valuables left on display or tools in vehicles – both in **residential areas** and around **town centre / retail areas**. Thefts of motor vehicle target older vehicles with less security or increasingly are taken using the owner's keys (often a burglary target). There has also been an **increase in thefts of motorcycles and cycles** (including electric).

Work over the past 12 months has included ...

**Crime Prevention and awareness raising** – Community and Environmental Support Officers (CESOs) and Police have engaged with residents through a combination of neighbourhood patrolling and partnership events to provide crime reduction advice and resources. As part of the support for partnership staff, training has been delivered to over 400 members of staff to ensure they have the necessary knowledge to cascade advice to members of the public. As part of multi-agency days of action, partners have worked with communities to improve environmental “grot-spots” to reduce opportunities for crimes.

**Community Involvement** – In addition to the engagement with communities through daily patrolling, Place based Community Outcome Groups (COGs) - Including Police, Council Services, Fire etc have worked with partners to identify the groups (such as Neighbourhood Watch) in their area and provided them with community safety information and advice to ensure they are alert to potential crime risks and work together to make their houses and communities more crime resistant.

**Focusing on Hotspots / Repeat victimisation** - Safer Kirklees staff provide advice and guidance to students at Freshers Fairs relating to simple crime reduction strategies such as not leaving doors / windows open and not leaving things on display in parked vehicles. COGs have used tactical intelligence products to identify hot spots for vehicle crime and burglary and co-ordinated partnership interventions which have resulted in higher-than-average reductions in crime in target locations.

**Priorities for 2024/25.** 1) Burglary (including non-domestic) 2) Vehicle (and cycle) theft (including commercial vehicles) 3) Theft from the person / robbery.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Red and a high priority for the Partnership**

The total number of **Personal ASB** incidents reported to Homes and Neighbourhoods in 2023 was lower than the corresponding period in the previous year. Domestic Noise complaints reported to the council in 2023 reduced slightly compared with the previous year.

After a prolonged reduction in the number of **Nuisance ASB** incidents, they have started to increase in 2023/24 although there are noticeable fluctuations with peaks associated with warm weather and holiday periods. Most incidents are recorded as (1) youth nuisance, (2) nuisance motorbikes / quads and (3) loud vehicles.

The main type of **Environmental ASB** recorded is fly tipping which has both a detrimental impact on satisfaction with neighbourhoods and is a risk for deliberate fires. The number of reported fly-tipping incidents is increasing which is likely to be a combination of more occurrences and better recording (and dealing with) incidents.

Work that has taken place ...

**Safety Rangers** - This programme aims to foster a sense of responsibility and community amongst the school children. In the past year, Safety Rangers sessions were delivered to over 500 Year 5 pupils, covering topics such as fire safety, physical / emotional wellbeing, road safety and Anti-Social Behaviour. The session incorporates the "Being Good in My Neighbourhood" school resource which focuses on concepts like kindness, honesty, respect, and being good in their community. Additionally, sessions consider how to report concerns, and

identify trusted adults. The sessions conclude with a "promise" from the children to undertake positive actions in their neighbourhood, such as picking up litter or assisting at home.

**Place Focused Partnership Problem Solving** – The Place based 4 Community Outcome Groups are chaired and led by Safer Kirklees working alongside the Police and wider partners deal with ASB issues across Kirklees (such as nuisance motorbikes, fly-tipping and nuisance behaviour). Actions from these meetings include multi-agency action days, consultations and intelligence gathering to inform a wider partnership response which provides a consistent service in areas where the issues are complex and/or longstanding, providing support to residents for sustained periods of time in the weeks following focussed initiatives.

**Days of action** have taken place at Springfield House, London Park and Fairmoor way for example. These days of action are attended by multi agencies, and they contribute to the overall approach of information gathering and coordinating a response. The CESOs provide a presence in these areas to forge solid relationships with residents which gains trust and therefore increases our knowledge about the area, residents who live there and any issues or incidents of note. CESOs are also tasked in conjunction with West Yorkshire Police to attend Homes and Neighbourhood (H&N) managed areas and provide a visible presence and a trusted face for residents to confide in and speak with following a serious incident or escalating tension.

**Training and Development for Partnership Staff** – Safer Kirklees Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Officers have developed and delivered bespoke training to over 70 housing officers, both new and old to improve confidence and knowledge in how to manage ASB cases successfully and to improve outcomes.

Officers have also devised tenancy ready training which is delivered to care leavers about to enter their first tenancy with H&N. These sessions have a focus on practical skills including financial management, but with a focus on sustaining a tenancy, positive behaviours and safeguarding.

**Community Triggers** - Safer Kirklees coordinate the Community Trigger response and the hearings that often result. Safer Kirklees lead on the newly established ASB panels working alongside the Police which run alongside the Hate Crime panels. These panels highlight the top perpetrators and victims which quite often reside in H&N tenancies. Working closely in partnership with colleagues in the police in this way means existing knowledge to enhance any ways to challenge and support perpetrators while ensuring that victims are supported.

**Mediation Services** - In the past 12 months Safer Kirklees received 13 referrals for mediation services for complex cases. Specially trained mediators worked on these cases with 1/3 of cases resulted in a successful agreement between parties. In the other cases, some parties declined to engage in the process and others withdrew their consent.

**Priorities for 2024/25** Anti-Social Behaviour (causing alarm, harassment or distress to any person) focuses on 3 areas: **1) Personal** – deliberately targeted at an individual or group (e.g. noise nuisance) **2) Nuisance** – causes annoyance to the wider community (e.g. fireworks, rowdy behaviour) **3) Environmental** – impacts on natural surroundings (e.g. fly-tipping, criminal damage).

- **Theme 3 - Resilient and Inclusive Communities**

In early 2024/5 there will be a Partnership review of the Resilient Communities theme, the priorities in the theme will remain the same but the theme will take a more Place and community based focus to see where we do have multiple risks in communities and how we look at these collectively and respond as a partnership. It will also be the theme that ensures we are hearing the voices of those in communities to help shape the work of the partnership and sharing the positive work that takes place across all our communities in Kirklees which can sometimes be overlooked due to peoples' perceptions of an area or incidents that have taken place. **Page 20**



## Hate crime Red and a high priority for the Partnership

West Yorkshire Police Force has been in the top **3 of hate crime** incident reports per 100,000 population since 2015/16. The number of hate crime incidents has **reduced** in Kirklees this year compared with the same period last year. From April to December this year, there has been a **decrease** in the number of repeat hate crimes when compared to the same period in 2022/23 and the incidents involving violence have **reduced**

All categories of hate incidents are reducing with the exception of incidents recorded as Faith related which have increased as has been seen nationally. Further analysis indicated that this is primarily to do with incidents recorded as Anti-Semitic and (to lesser extent) ones recorded as Islamophobic. It is important to note 2 things when considering this increase. The first is that incidents recorded as faith hate are those perceived by the victim or any other person as hate related. The 2<sup>nd</sup> issue is that an increase in reported hate incidents might demonstrate more confidence and awareness of mechanisms to report hate as opposed to evidence of more hate in communities.

**Priorities for 2024/25 People** – (1) **Victims** – this will focus on all stages of the victim journey (2) **Perpetrators** – education and communication will remain a key element to reiterate the messages that ‘Kirklees has no place for hate’.

**Places** – (1) making sure people live safely in their **own homes, public spaces and online space** where people might feel less inhibited in giving hate abuse.

**Partnerships** Improve awareness of / mechanisms to **report hate crimes**, strengthen relationships between **partners and communities** in tackling hate crimes.

Please note the [Hate incident reporting | Kirklees Council](#) and the [Hate Crime Strategy 2022-2027 \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

## Migration, Resettlement and Asylum Dispersal Red and a high priority

Kirklees is a place of welcome and there is a strong partnership approach to support those seeking sanctuary in the District. [Kirklees welcomes asylum seekers, refugees and migrants | Kirklees Council](#) The last 12 months partners have supported families who have arrived following the Afghan evacuation, UK Refugees Resettlement scheme, Ukraine response and those seeking asylum.

There is now a high expectation that numbers **will continue to increase for asylum dispersal in 2024**. The Home Office, against strong objection from the Council and our partners, are planning to take forward a large site on Manchester Road [Manchester Road, Huddersfield: factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

## Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF) Amber

The ICF is in its implementation phase and will continue to be embedded across the partnership. **Inclusive Communities Framework** [Inclusive Communities Framework | Kirklees Council](#)- (1) adoption of the framework within the council and by partners and (2) working towards the KMC organisational over 35 self-evaluations have now taken place and the learning from this is being analysed.

**See appendix 3.**

## Prevent Amber

Kirklees remains as a priority status area for Prevent as designated by the Home Office, and as such receives grant funding for staffing resource and to deliver projects in both school and community based settings. As outlined in the Kirklees Council: [Kirklees Council: Prevent Strategy 2022-2025](#) Prevent Strategy 2022-2025 the key priorities of Prevent are to: Manage

the threat, risk and vulnerability, Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, Safeguard those most susceptible to radicalisation through early intervention, enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate, ensure effective partnerships and governance structures are in place to monitor, support and evaluate Prevent to achieve effective delivery.

## Theme 4 - Reducing Risk

### Road Safety Red and a high priority for the Partnership

Road Safety consistently features as one of the top priorities that residents identify which needs tackling to create safer communities. The partnership plan focuses on reducing injuries caused by road traffic collisions as well as anti-social driving including speeding, loud vehicles, and inconsiderate / dangerous parking.

The **Partnership Plan Road Safety Strategy** aligns with the strategic aims in both the Kirklees Highways Road Safety Strategy and the Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire in particular, the “Vision Zero” which aims to have 0 fatalities on our roads by 2049. Consideration to be given regarding gender specific work (men) and review age profile of casualties.

The issues to be tackled over the next 12 months include; pedestrian safety and awareness, speed, anti-social driving, parking and two-wheeler incidents.

Kirklees Road Safety strategy aims to both continue reducing the number of people **killed and seriously injured** on the roads but also to tackle the issues of key concern and detrimental to **perceptions of safety** for all road users – including anti-social driving / parking and dangerous vehicles.

The interventions in the strategy will be informed by and impact measured through analysis of partnership intelligence including community perceptions of road safety. The strategy in Kirklees considers how partners, working with communities, can work collaboratively to reduce the number of collisions and other road safety issues by focusing on all aspects of collisions – namely the features of **vehicles, people** (both drivers and other parties), **locations** and **times** of the day / year when collisions peak.

The strategy will focus on all elements of the collision and casualty reduction from how they can be prevented through to post collision learning to reduce repeat incidents. In common with other areas in the Risk theme, the overriding principle is that the best approach to tackling road safety is through prevention tactics wherever possible.

**Targeted enforcement activity** in key locations and at key times is a priority. This includes highlighting specific road safety issue such as use of mobile phones, drug/ drink driving, failure to use seat belts, working closely across the road safety partnership with West Yorkshire Police, Taxi Licensing, Safer Kirklees, DVLA, Highways. For example, Operation Twinetre was a ward funded operation in Dewsbury South and 349 motorists were positively dealt with.

### Water Safety Amber

The SIA highlights seasonal dimension to water safety incidents with the **summer months** seeing more incidents linked to Anti-Social Behaviour whereas there is more risk with slips and falls into fast flowing or frozen water in the winter months.

### Re-offending Amber

The Partnership Plan recognises that re-offending covers both youth and adult reoffending and strategies to reduce it. The SIA highlights continued reductions in the number of First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System and the work relating to addressing offending risk factors.

## Drugs and Alcohol Amber

The SIA highlights how drugs and alcohol are linked as a driver of crime but also cause harm in their own right – both in short term e.g. violence / theft / anti-social behaviour and longer term e.g. liver disease and recovery. Economic pressures have traditionally seen a shift in use from night-time economy to the home which have risks around domestic abuse, increased consumption and neighbour disputes.

Alcoholic liver disease has more than doubled in the last 10 years and there are significantly higher rates in Kirklees compared with the England average. Drug related death and Alcohol-related mortality rates have increased significantly over the last couple of years, and rates in Kirklees are significantly worse than England's average.

**See appendix 4 for a highlight report.**

## Appendix 2

### Theme 1: Violence and Exploitation

#### **Serious Violence - Overview of progress on the Serious Violence Duty**

A detailed report and discussion took place at OSMC in February 2023, this is an update on progress in the last 12 months.

#### **1. Background**

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 provides new duties in respect to Serious Violence. The new Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities (Duty Holders) to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence, and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area.

Alongside the duty, the PCSC Act also amends the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to include a requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence, both as victims and perpetrators, and reduce instances of serious violence in the area.

#### **2. Delivering the serious violence duty in Kirklees**

All organisations and agencies subject to the duty are accountable for their activity and co-operation. The Duty Holders specified include: Local authorities, Police, Probation Services, Youth Offending Teams, Fire and Rescue and Integrated Care Boards. The existing structures remain for Serious Violence (SV) which are SV Gold, Silver and Bronze partnerships and work is progressing to develop the 6 actions plans further in identified communities.

There is a West Yorkshire strategy to reduce / tackle serious violence and a needs assessment that outlines risk and threat. They are currently with the Home Office for sign off. In 2024/5 the Partnership will develop a delivery plan in relation to the implementation of the SV duty and the partnership response to the strategy to tackle serious violence.

#### **3. Local data and insight**

The number of recorded violent offences for April to Dec 2023/24 are below those of the same period in 2022/23 by 8%, the projected number of incidents for 2023/24 based on the first half of the year is a reduction on previous years. When comparing the period April to December, there has been a 10% reduction in violence with injury incidents.

#### **4. Partnership funding**

The partnership has limited statutory funding to support its work in reducing and tackling violence across the district. However, the partnership does make the best possible use of wider external funding opportunities to support this work. Funding is largely sourced through routes such as the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (WYVRP). To be aware that funding for the WYVRP from central government is due to end in March 2025.

#### **5. Local approach**

The approach to tackling Serious Violence is based on the following key principles:

- a) *Preventing people from committing serious violence by developing resilience, supporting positive alternatives and timely interventions*
  - ✓ **Yorkshire Mentoring** has delivered educational inputs in primary and secondary schools in highlighted areas. Age-appropriate resources, Happy Friendship's and Wrong Look, Wrong Time, Wrong Place have engaged over 550 children and young people to date. There is now an extension of the commissioned mentoring programme to provide additional mentoring support at Kirklees College.

- ✓ **The PEAK Project**, delivered by West Yorkshire Police, continues to educate and inspire young people across Kirklees. In 2023-24 PEAK has been delivered in 18 schools with 168 young people successfully completing the programme.
- ✓ **STARS (School Transition and Reach Service)** is a team focussed on supporting young people approaching a school transition where there are concerns in relation to school engagement, attendance and/or behaviour. The aim is to reduce disengagement at a key transition and therefore reduce the risk of vulnerability to exploitation, gang involvement and violent/criminal activity.
- ✓ Working with Yorkshire Mentoring are delivering **training, advice and information sessions** for Parents and carers, teachers, safeguarding leads and other professionals around serious violence, exploitation, risk factors, and how to find additional support.
- ✓ The **Detached Youth Work Team engages with young people in highlighted locations**, the majority were engaged in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley and Spenningsdale post codes.
- ✓ **Chill Skillz**:- Working closely with the Youth Justice Service and Youth Engagement Team a targeted intervention programme focusing on positive mental health and dealing with emotions
- ✓ **Night Safety Bus**: - in Huddersfield Town Centre which provides vulnerable users of the Town Centre, including women and girls with a safe space on a Wednesday and Saturday evening until 3:00am. The Night Safety Bus which is supported by professionals from Change Grow Live, Locala and WYP aims to reduce the demand placed upon blue lights services and reduce the risks / crime against women and girls. The data does highlight a clear reduction in reported crime against women and girls when the Night Safety Bus is in use. [www.kirklees.gov.uk/night-safety](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/night-safety).
- ✓ **Street Marshalls** have worked very closely with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) which has proven very beneficial and reassuring. Depending on the activity the Marshalls will work on either a Friday or Saturday night. Having this flexibility will allow for deployment of the Street Marshalls on the busier nights. Have undertaken site visits in relation to the most appropriate equipment for the deployable CCTV. There have been multi-agency meetings with partners to discuss how it will fit in with the council's wider CCTV programme.
- ✓ Over **240 Safe Zones** have been established across the district in 2023-24 which provides people, particularly young people with a safe place to go should they fear crime or violence.
- ✓ The Partnership **continue to fund local community organisations** in highlighted areas to deliver diversionary activities to young people utilising funding from the Violence Reduction Partnership. These groups are supported on a regular basis with learning and best practice and brought together on a frequent basis to discuss intelligence, share learning and look at longer sustainable funding opportunities.

**b) *To Intervening Early to prevent individuals become entrenched in Serious Violence and Organised Criminal Activity***

- ✓ **Youth Engagement Services** Continues to provide more targeted support to those involved in serious violence or at high risk of becoming involved.
- ✓ **A&E Navigators Calderdale & Huddersfield Foundation Trust (CHFT)** Trauma Navigators based at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (HRI) explore an individual's support needs following attendance at Accident & Emergency (A&E) where violence has been used against them/ by them. Here consent is gained, the trauma navigators refer on to the Community Links offer provided in Kirklees by the Detached Youth Work Team. In 2023-24 the main concern for those referred is managing their emotions/ wellbeing/ mental health, along with substance misuse and being the victim of assault.
- ✓ **Teachable Moments Project (Focussed Deterrence Car)** The Teachable Moments Project involves proactive deployment of a Police Officer and a Detached Youth Worker

in identified hotspots as well as reactive deployment following a serious violence incident which may involve or affect young people.

*c) To pursue, disrupt and prosecute those who commit serious violent crimes*

Enforcement across the partnership is largely led by WYP and their targeted operations.

Examples of these operations include: -

- Dedicated proactive Police officers to patrol within identified priority areas. Over the past 12 months they have conducted a number of arrests for serious violence, and for serious offences including i.e. Drugs and Weapons
- Targeting of an Organised Crime Group based on North Kirklees. Mapping exercise currently being undertaken to understand nominals involved and links to other gangs / OCG's operating within Kirklees.
- Targeted operation linked to an Urban Street Gang in North Kirklees following several incidents in November outside a local school.

## Appendix 3

### Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF)

#### 1. Background

The Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF) [Inclusive Communities Framework | Kirklees Council](#) is a commitment to working better with communities to ensure people and communities feel like they belong, and they are listened to about what matters to them, and partners improve how they work with communities. The framework sets out how we want to work with people and has a toolkit that helps organisations review and improve how they work with communities.

An ICF implementation group has been established and consists of partners who are committed to promoting the framework, sharing their knowledge and helping implement the ICF within the Local authority and wider partnerships.

#### 2. Progress in the last 12 months

a. Phase 1 – Raising Awareness, building connections & strategic buy-in across place. ICF Briefing sessions have been delivered internally to teams, senior staff, and external partners to drive the implementation of the framework. ICF has been shared and continues to be shared through key events online and in person, via the KMC intranet, website [Inclusive Communities Framework | Kirklees Council](#), presence at the Kirklees Leadership Forum (KLF), Picture of Kirklees, during Inclusion week and building ICF into “My learning” modules for staff to access.

There has been a gradual increase of ICF submissions from varied services (to date there have been **35** submissions), working with services to develop action plans that look at the pillars and approaches of ICF. The framework has been recognised as valuable in helping implement positive changes within services, having a critical friend when looking at delivery through the embedding of the ICF pillars and approaches) and sharing good practice.

#### b. Phase 2: Embedding ICF - making a difference.

- ✓ **Homes England** (HE) have adopted ICF to look at the development of community engagement and social value on the Riverside Development, ensuring transparency, inclusivity and involvement throughout the development. *The Kirklees Local Plan in February 2019, identified the need for new homes, including supporting infrastructure for the new community.* The ICF has helped to inform joint motivations and guiding principles to define community engagement and social value for Dewsbury Riverside between Homes England and Kirklees Council.

Considering the pillars and five ICF approaches has helped to re affirm and embed the importance of working with the community and the role of the community to achieve improved outcomes for the Dewsbury Riverside development.

- ✓ **Picture of Kirklees Event:** Third Sector Leaders provided partnership insight into how ICF is used by third sector, highlighting the sharing of power with communities, enabling local communities to grow - Dewsbury Arcade, Community owned shopping centre – having belief in communities.
- ✓ **External Partners:** ICF submissions and feedback from external partners (including Locala, Integrated Care Board (ICB), Probation) indicated that partners recognise that ICF should be golden thread and embedded in all strategies and plans.
- ✓ **Procurement and contracts:** Looking at how providers can demonstrate ICF within contracts that are being commissioned through procurement, UKSPF small grants contracts have been awarded with ICF outcomes at the forefront of delivery in communities.
- ✓ **Faith Networks** have utilised ICF to ensure **reach and connectedness** within communities through the newly formed South Kirklees Interfaith Forum.

### **3. Plans for 2024/25**

- Develop indicators that can be used to understand the effectiveness of ICF, so organisations can embed ICF as part of their own performance Indicators.
- Evaluations of submissions to date, analysis of data/case studies – highlight good/areas of improvement.
- Development of ICF peer review group – to develop good practice, critical friend approach to develop a positive culture of ICF and what added value it brings to service delivery.
- Develop the work on ICF being an enabler to our place-based strategies/programmes
- Work towards the annual ICF organisational submission.
- Identify priority areas where ICF understanding and implementation is needed.



## Appendix 4

### Theme 4 Reducing Risk

#### Drugs and Alcohol

##### 1. Context to the use of drugs and alcohol

If people are using substances and it is negatively impacting on their lives or the people around them, then the individual is using problematically. If the individual is unable to stop using the substances and continues to use despite the negative impacts, this is a degree of addiction. The addiction may be physical, whereby if they stop using, they are in withdrawal, and they use to avoid experiencing the negative withdrawal symptoms, and/or it could be psychosocial. By this, it means there are social reasons people continue to use, which interlink with psychological reasons. For example, someone might use because their friends do, which is a social reason, but this on a deeper level might be that they do not have confidence to be around their friends off drugs or have difficulty implementing boundaries.

There is such an interlink between the two it would be rare that someone with an addiction does not have problems to some degree with their mental health – either low level (anxiety, stress, depression) or more serious conditions like psychosis. Substances may exacerbate mental health problems, and/or they may cause mental health problems. If someone can stop substances and their mental health issues continue, this would be a mental health issue, not a substance use problem.

##### 2. Support for those with addiction & mental health problems

It is essential to see mental health and addiction as interlinking conditions, they should not be treated in isolation. The term dual diagnosis is used, particularly for people with substance use problems and more serious mental health problems. Multiple literature exists (NICE guidance) that states having substance use problems should not be a barrier to mental health treatment, so the treatment for someone with a substance use problem vs. without, should be similar. Care should be coordinated and inform each services care plans.

In some instances, it may be necessary to reduce and have a period of stability before progressing to traumatic mental health interventions. In Kirklees there is a dual diagnosis service a psychiatrist is employed by Change Grow Live Kirklees, the drug and alcohol provider to deal with complex cases. Sometime people face barriers to receiving mental health support so at a strategic level a mental health subgroup has been established (of the combating drugs partnership) to try and reduce these barriers through better partnership working.

There is training to mental health staff and substance use staff, so each service is skilled in delivering low intensity interventions of the opposite discipline (mental health/substance use interventions).

##### 3. Impacts of drugs and alcohol upon crime

Figures around the impacts of drug and alcohol on crime can be seen in the wider Kirklees strategic intelligence assessment e.g. ASB, Road Traffic Accidents, Violent Crime. It is difficult to breakdown which specific crimes in Kirklees are the direct result of someone using drugs and alcohol because:

- a) It often is not clear whether a crime would have occurred if a person hadn't used substances.
- b) Drugs and alcohol might be implicated in the crime (theft) but there could be multiple other reasons (social pressure, poverty etc) to it is impossible to differentiate.
- c) The police do not routinely record whether drugs/alcohol was an aggravating factor in a crime, we have explored this being implemented but it is not something that is realistically possibly to achieve currently.
- d) Drugs and alcohol can exacerbate domestic abuse, ASB, violence in the nighttime economy (NTE), safety against VAWG (alcohol and the NTE play a huge role in sexual offences)

also be an aggravating factor in crimes such as burglary, theft, fraud to fund people's habits, and it can be linked directly to violence and the harms coming from drug dealing (e.g. county lines and cuckooing).

#### **4. Links with the Wellbeing Strategy**

The Kirklees Drug & Alcohol Strategy was written based upon the Health and Well Being Strategy, it includes the 'I statements' and a full chapter on how the strategy links with other council strategies, including shared outcomes. Please see the strategy for more info.



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Drug and Alcohol St

#### **5. The impacts of drug and alcohol related crime and work taking place**

There is a strong partnership working when it comes to drugs and alcohol, via the combating drugs partnership. Work with the Police and probation support reductions in offending behaviour. For example, this involves investing in the Clear, Hold, Build initiative to reduce drug/alcohol related violence locally, investing in a WY Police drugs training coordinator to deliver training to partners at regional level, investing in Integrated Offender Management (IOM) initiatives and supporting offenders that are released from prison to receive continued care into the community, included supported housing and treatment.

The drug and alcohol service also co-locates with the police and probation. Continuity of care rates (people leaving prison being seen in the community treatment within 3 weeks is approximately 80% and is the highest in the region). We also support other partnership working, for example feeding into domestic homicide review panels and youth engagement work to reduce ASB.

The following case study provide a more focused picture of work in this area:

*Client A has historically been difficult to engage. She was on and off prescription, previously reported not to want to work with any services. Concerns were about risky behaviours and offending in order to fund drug use which meant it was difficult to engage and keep in treatment.*

*July 2023 client was arrested and remanded in custody. At this point she was approx. 18 weeks pregnant. Childrens Social Care had concerns regarding ongoing drug use whilst pregnant and non engagement with pre-birth health checks. Worker visited her whilst she was in New Hall and built a relationship with her over a 6-month period. Staff arranged to pick her up on her day of release from prison.*

*Once released client was supported intensively initially, supporting her to pharmacy daily and supported to relevant groups. The service facilitated supervised contact with her son which was a focus for her and part of her recovery journey. Client continues to engage well with services and her family and has not re-offended since.*

#### **5. Priorities / Projects for 2024/25**

- a) Improve Access to Services, using a targeted approach that reduces health inequalities.
- a) Continue to strengthen partnerships and treatment and referral pathways in healthcare settings.
- b) Campaigns to prevent/reduce harm and stigma amongst adults and young people.
- c) Targeted awareness and harm reduction work amongst LGBTQ+ community.
- d) Reduce levels or unmet need by supporting more people into drug and alcohol treatment through increased awareness and better referral pathways and community outreach support.
- e) Extending naloxone provision, conducting drug and alcohol death review panels, sharing learning with the adult fatality review panel and strengthening the local drug information systems and improving links/data sharing with coroners and the ambulance.

## Appendix 5

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee Actions (6<sup>th</sup> Feb 23):

**Action** - The Police online reporting system did not allow people to **report speeding as a crime**; this had been pointed out previously but not resolved. Superintendent Brear undertook to consider and respond to the issue raised about reporting speeding via the website.

West Yorkshire Police report that there has been no change to police systems with regards to reporting of speeding as a crime as what constitutes a crime is governed by National Crime Recording Standards defined by the Home Office.

However, members of the public report dangerous or careless driving including incidents where there is a perception of excessive speed. On receipt of video footage (from a mobile phone or similar device), police would review and assess whether the evidential threshold for an appropriate offence.

Perceptions of vehicles routinely exceeding the speed limit on a length of road should be shared with both local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Kirklees Council Highways. There is the possibility of using traffic flow and speed cameras to assess whether further actions would be appropriate.

**Action** - Work was undertaken with the Highways department and reference to traffic surveys to determine whether the issue was one of perception and would be followed-up by engagement with local communities about the findings.

A comprehensive update of the work undertaken by Highways department was provided to Scrutiny in January 2024 – this update can be accessed at the following link: [Kirklees Highway Safety Update - 10th January 2024 - VER1a FINAL.pdf](#)

**Action** - It was queried how the data gathered from the **Speed Indicator Devices** (SIDs) was used - the responses made/action taken in response to the data gathered from speed indication devices and how this is shared with partners.

There are 2 main sources of data relating to SIDs – ones use by Safer Kirklees and those used by Highways:

**Safer Kirklees SIDs** – data is collected from these devices and used to record the number of vehicles who have driven past the school. It is very rare that any vehicles speed outside the school whilst the operation is taking place as there are usually a group of school children in High Visibility vests on the roadside.

**Highways SIDs** – there are around 50 devices, a proportion of these are funded by Ward Councillors, positioned at with locations chosen highlighted through community engagement. These devices are positioned for approximately 3 months and then moved to another location.

The devices also illuminate green or red depending on the speed and this is a feature of the devices which is liked by communities.

During the 3 months they collect data relating to speed of vehicles. This data is downloaded, analysed and presented in a format which can be shared and easily interpreted by community groups and Ward Councillors.

Data can be used when developing schemes and/or identifying locations when presented with a cluster of collisions - it helps to build an accurate picture of the said location and identify if other factors are contributing to collisions.

**Action** - The understanding was that the **data on non-injury incidents** could be extracted but this would be confirmed and an update provided for the Committee.....the Road Safety Partnership Group was developing an intelligence package that would provide a wider picture than just data on collisions - how data in respect of collisions not involving injury is collated and utilised.

Data relating to non-injury collisions has been incorporated into the partnership road safety intelligence package. This information is used to provide a more complete picture (in addition to collisions resulting in an injury) of road traffic collisions to identify problem locations, times and contributory factors which is used by the Road Safety Partnership to inform the Partnership Action Plan.

**Action** - That it is recommended that the **importance of working and engaging with Ward Councillors** on issues in their areas be embraced by all parties. Communities Service place and ward-based meetings take place along with Police led Place based meetings.

The Communities Board and wider Partnership recognises the vital role that Ward Councillors offer in helping to understand and tackle local issues identified in Communities both in their democratic role and providing insight and connections with local people.

As such, Ward members are engaged and involved in developing Safer Kirklees including:

- Safer Kirklees Mailbox as a platform to report Ward based issues which will be investigated, addressed and feedback to members provided.
- Every Ward Member has a named Safer Communities Officer who they can contact to discuss Ward Based Community Safety issues.
- Community and Environmental Support Officers – regularly engage with members, undertake ward walks, provide reassurance.
- Quarterly Briefings by both Police and Safer Kirklees as a 2-way communication platform for Ward Members.
- Link with Elected members to address strategic issues via Portfolio Holder, Overview and Scrutiny, Communities Board.
- Link with other Council Services (for example via the Councillor Enquiries mailbox) to address issues raised by Ward Members.

## Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Andrew Cooper, Children's Scrutiny Panel

Period of Update: From January 2024 – March 2024

### Panel Highlights

#### Bi-monthly Lead member briefings with:

Senior Officers in Children's Services

- Service Director – Learning and Early Support
- Service Director – Resources Improvement and Partnerships
- Service Director – Family Support and Child Protection
- Strategic Director for Children's Services

Cabinet Members

- Children (Statutory responsibility for Children)
- Learning, Aspiration and Communities

#### Panel Activity and meetings -

- Panel meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Performance Data; Working together to Safeguard Children, an update on key issues considered by the Corporate Parenting Board and the Informal meeting considered an update on Corporate Risk.

### Outcomes:

#### Performance Data

On the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the Panel received verbal updates from Senior Officers in Children's Services on the key performance issues for the service for period ending November 2023. The following key issues were considered by the Panel:-

- Rates of referrals were significantly lower in Kirklees than England;
- Contacts receiving a decision within one working day had increased to 69.8% which was where it was this time last year;
- Re-referrals remained stable at 19.9% and the 12 month average was 19.2%;
- Timeliness of risk assessments had improved, 17 remained overdue as a result of enhanced oversight;
- Looked after children (LAC) reviews held on time was 97%; numbers of children in care had stabilised; 90% of visits to children had been made in line with practice standards; numbers of children in an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) had reduced from last month to 168 and this time last year this figure was 165;
- 99% of care leavers had a pathway plan, with 93% of these being up to date, 95% in touch and 91% were in suitable accommodation;
- Numbers of children with a Child Protection Plan had increased again to 475 which now exceeded the England average;
- A small number of children were in unregulated settings, however, oversight was robust and numbers were reducing;
- The numbers of children with an adoption plan was half that of statistical

neighbours, but conversations were ongoing with neighbouring partners with regard to adoption support;

- Seeking to improve the quality of pathway plans for care leavers and improving the opportunities for education and training;
- Working with partners regarding care leavers working in the community and following a visit from Mark Riddell (National Implementation Advisor for Care Leavers from the DfE) the service were working through the suggestions and recommendations from his report.

The Panel asked questions relating to the following areas –

- Caseload management and fluctuation of numbers and how this was being managed and what measures were being put in place to keep it stable;
- What was a Section 27 and Section 17 of the Children’s Act 1989;
- Placement and accommodation for care leavers and what was classed as unsuitable accommodation;
- A breakdown of the data for care leavers in education, employment and training (EET);
- Waiting times for neuro-development pathway support and what action was being taken to reduce the wait;
- Was the main reason for wanting an assessment a key to opening educational support;
- What were the reasons for CAMHS support and levels of requests being so low;
- At what stage were children identified as having ADHD or Autism and did some slip through the net or have it identified later in school years;
- Who could make a referral for an assessment of ADHD or Autism.

The Panel agreed to receive a future update on the new triage system for the support being put in place to meet the needs of children and young people to ensure they were waiting well whilst their assessment took place.

### **Working together to safeguard children**

The Panel considered a report on Working Together to Safeguard Children, advising that in December 2023, the Department for Education published new statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children and the report will give a summary of the changes made.

The Panel asked questions relating to the following areas –

- Was the new guidance being implemented by all Local Authorities and Practitioners in the country;
- How could the Panel be kept informed of the key elements of the changes and new arrangements, in particular in relation to implementation and good practice.

The Panel agreed to invite Julie Sykes, Independent Scrutineer, to a future meeting during the 2024-25 municipal year to discuss and reflect on the new arrangements and changes and how the service has acted as a safeguarding multi-agency partnership. The Panel also agreed to receive a copy of the latest Annual Report currently produced by Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership Board, so that they could see the work that is undertaken.

The Panel agreed to attend appropriate meetings and events to observe the key elements of the changes and new arrangements on working together to safeguard

children, with a particular focus on the implementation of the new service and good practice.

### **Corporate Risk Update**

At the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee planning workshop in 2023, it was agreed that the Corporate Risk Register would be shared with Lead Members and discussed on a regular basis at the relevant Scrutiny Panels. In January, the Panel considered a Corporate Risk update report showing emerging risks for the areas of focus on the Work Programme for 23/24 and key areas of the Children's Service. Key points highlighted were:-

- Children's Services maintain a risk register that is reviewed and updated quarterly;
- Directorate and Service level risk registers are consolidated to produce a Corporate Risk Matrix and Emerging Risks list, providing a holistic view of the key risks across the entire breadth of Kirklees Council activities;
- The risk groups were broken down into financial sustainability, statutory obligations and safeguarding.

The Panel agreed to consider the quarterly updates on Corporate Risk at future Panel meetings.

### **Looking Ahead**

In March 2024, the Panel will consider reports on Post 16 Home to School Travel and Ofsted Inspection outcomes for Children's Residential Homes.

The Panel have agreed to carry forward a number of areas of focus into the new municipal year 2024-25 –

- Front Door Health Check – July 2024;
- Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report;
- Educational Attainment Outcomes;
- Emotional Wellbeing Provision in Kirklees – “Keeping Kirklees in Mind” – July 2024;
- Care Leavers Provision Action Plan – July 2024

### **General Comments**

As usual I am impressed on the strong grasp that officers have regarding activity in the Childrens Service as evidenced by the statistics and their informed commentary on them.

The report "Working Together to Safeguard Children" highlighted the benefits of partnership working and providing tailored support to give the most appropriate package for each child. It will be interesting to see how this new approach works for the children who will benefit from it.

The panel will keep a watch on the time it takes for children with neuro diverse conditions to get an assessment. This is of concern to many parents.





# Kirklees Council

## Scrutiny Lead Member Report

**Lead Member:** Cllr Bill Armer

**Panel:** Health and Adult Social Care

**Period of Update:** From: January 2024 – March 2024

### Panel Highlights

During the reporting period the Lead Member has had briefings with a number of key contacts from across the local health and adult social care system including:

- Richard Parry – Strategic Director for Adults and Health.
- Cath Simms – Service Director Adults Social Care Operations
- Brendan Brown – Chief Executive, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
- Darryl Thompson, Chief Nurse & Director of Quality and Profession, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Leonard Richards, Chief Executive, Mid Yorkshire Teaching Trust

### Panel meeting 24 January 2024

**Dentistry in Kirklees** - The Panel heard from representatives from the Integrated Care Board who provided information on Dentistry across Kirklees.

The Panel heard that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) had become the responsible commissioners for dentistry in April 2023, with an outlined medium and long-term ambition.

The issue of access to NHS dentists and paediatric surgical dental extraction remains an area of concern for the Panel, with waiting lists for paediatric surgery being over a year in some areas.

Outcomes: The Panel requested further information on inequalities between Huddersfield and Dewsbury, along with data for people attending accident and emergency who were registered with an NHS dentist.

### Panel meeting 28 February 2024

**CQC Inspection preparation and External Consultancy** - The Panel continued its focus on the services being delivered by Kirklees Adult Social Care including (i) looking at the Council's approach to preparing for the CQC inspections (ii) considering the new CQC inspection areas of responsibility to understand the assurance regime (iii) looking at emerging themes and outcomes from the CQC pilot inspection sites (iv) receiving details of the broader range of changes that the Council is developing to improve the social care offer (v) Supported Living.

At the time of the discussion the Panel noted that 5 CQC pilot inspections had taken place with another 20 to take place between October 2023 and March 2024. The ASC team had noted the emerging themes and outcomes from the CQC inspections in readiness for the Kirklees inspection.

Outcomes: The Panel was satisfied with the progress of the ASC team and how well prepared they were in readiness for the Kirklees inspection.

**Future arrangements for the council run long stay dementia homes** – The Panel heard from officers within Adults Social Care who outlined the proposal to Cabinet for the future of council run dementia care homes. The report was seeking approval to explore potential opportunities to transfer two homes to an independent sector provider with the council continuing to operate the homes during this time, and thereafter if a transfer was not successful. The service had been approached by several independent providers who wished to explore as a potential opportunity.

Outcomes:

The Panel welcomed the proposal to explore opportunities to transfer the homes as a going concern with the view that the council would continue to operate the homes if not successful.

**Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board Report 2022/23** – The Panel heard from the Independent KSAB Chair who advised that in 2022/23 the Board had worked jointly with regional consortium colleagues in procuring an online platform, with the overarching aim of joint multiagency safeguarding adults policy and procedures, to be easily accessed by all partner organisation in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and City of York.

Several networking groups had taken place in 2022/23, inviting frontline staff and volunteers working in the safeguarding arena. The Board continued to work together with partner organisations and people in the community.

Outcomes:

The Panel was satisfied with the work that had taken place by KSAB in 2022/23.

### **Monitoring Work**

(If monitoring previous recommendations please identify what difference Scrutiny has made).

N/A

### **Looking Ahead**

The following areas will be considered by the Panel at the meetings scheduled to take place in April 2024:

- Joined up hospital Services in Kirklees.
- Non-Surgical Oncology
- CQC – Regulated Services across Kirklees.

### **General comments**

It is clear that Dentistry is experiencing significant challenges nationally as well as locally, with contract reform, workforce planning and finances. A lack of NHS provision for dentistry across Kirklees remains an area of concern. The Panel will

continue to keep in focus the golden threads on the work programme being recruitment and retention, the impact of Covid-19, performance data to inform the individual strands of work and inequalities in health.

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

**MEMBERS: Councillors; Elizabeth Smaje (Chair), Bill Armer, Andrew Cooper, Hannah McKerchar and Shabir Pandor**

**SUPPORT: Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer**

<b>FULL PANEL DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>THEME / ISSUE</b>	<b>APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES / ACTIONS</b>
1. <b>Leader's Priorities 2023/24</b>	The Leader will set out her portfolio priorities for 2023/24 and later in the municipal year will give an update	<p><u>1 August 2023</u> Deferred until 24<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p><u>24<sup>th</sup> October 2023</u> The Leader attended to set out her four core priorities and answered questions from Members. It was agreed that she be invited to return, at an appropriate time, to give an update on progress. It was also noted that the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel would be looking at climate change and suggested that the points raised on this issue be taken forward by the Lead Member as appropriate.</p>
2. <b>Corporate and Finance &amp; Regeneration Portfolio Holders' Priorities 2023/24</b>	<p>The Portfolio Holders will set out their priorities for 2023/24 and later in the municipal year will give an update.</p> <p><i>Regular meetings take place between the Portfolio Holders and the Chair of Scrutiny to identify any issues where scrutiny may be able to add value.</i></p>	<p><u>1 August 2023</u> Priorities for the Corporate Portfolio were presented, questions answered and comments made.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holders attend meetings of the Committee when items within their remit are discussed.</p>

<p><b>3. Council Financial Management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Financial Management Reports.</li> <li>• Financial management areas of interest to scrutiny:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Energy Budgets (August)</li> <li>- MTFP Update (September)</li> <li>- Cost of Living Programme Update (October)</li> <li>- Housing Revenue Account (December)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Regular meetings take place between the Service Director – Finance and the Chair of Scrutiny to provide an overview and identify any issues where scrutiny is considered important.</i></p>	<p><u>20th June 2023</u> Regular updates requested in line with financial reporting timescales, with additional updates in-between the quarterly reporting cycle to allow for scrutiny of any particular areas of financial concern.</p> <p><u>1st August 2023</u> Presentation in respect of a review of the Council's arrangements and budgets for energy. Questions answered and comments made.</p> <p><u>5th September 2023</u> Position statement as at Quarter 2, it was requested that further information including the achievability of savings and detail of the re-profiling of the Capital Plan be provided to Members of the Committee.</p> <p><u>24th October 2023</u> The presentation provided an update on the work being undertaken as part of the Council's Cost of Living Programme, with questions and comments being invited from Members. It was recommended that the resulting comments be taken on board in future work on this issue.</p> <p><u>5th December 2023</u> The Service Director, Finance provided an update on the current position, with reference to the Quarter 2 2023-24 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report, and responded to Members' questions and comments.</p> <p><u>9th January 2024</u> The Committee received a presentation on the latest position in respect of the Housing Revenue Account. The Portfolio Holder, and the Service Director and Finance Director, Homes and Neighbourhoods responded to Members' questions and comments.</p>
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		<p><u>27<sup>th</sup> February 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee considered the Corporate Financial Monitoring Report – Quarter 3 and the Annual Budget Report 2024-25.</p>
4. <b>Performance Management</b>	Scrutiny of the latest performance management reports.	<p><u>5<sup>th</sup> September 2023</u></p> <p>Recommended that the issue of transparency of performance management information be taken into account in the consideration of the future approach.</p>
5. <b>IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for digitisation</li> <li>• Replacement of telephony system</li> <li>• Security</li> </ul>	<p><u>27<sup>th</sup> February 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee received an update in respect of the Technology Strategy 2020-2025</p>
6. <b>Communications</b>	Pre-decision scrutiny of Communications Strategy	<p><u>5<sup>th</sup> December 2023</u></p> <p>The Communications Strategy Update 2024 was presented. The Committee requested that their comments be taken into account in taking the strategy forward. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of promotion and support for the work undertaken in particular places and wards.</li> <li>• The importance of the continuation of the use of more traditional methods of communication, so that those who did not use social media were not excluded.</li> <li>• Consideration be given to strengthening communication in respect of providing updates further to a decision.</li> <li>• The explanation for the retention of the mission, from the previous version, being reflected within the strategy document.</li> </ul>
7. <b>Inclusion and Diversity</b>	<p>Monitoring work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion and Diversity Strategy</li> <li>Pre-decision scrutiny of the revised strategy</li> <li>• Inclusion and Diversity Annual Report</li> </ul>	Chair of Scrutiny updated throughout 2023/24

8. <b>Council Plan</b>	Pre-decision scrutiny in respect of the development, and content, of the latest version of the Council Plan	<p><u>20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – informal</u> Comments taken on board in the development of the plan.</p> <p><u>9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – informal</u> Comments and recommendations taken forward and reported to Cabinet (13<sup>th</sup> February 2024) and Council (6<sup>th</sup> March 2024)</p>
9. <b>Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan (Crime and Disorder) and Domestic Abuse Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual scrutiny of the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan in accordance with statutory requirement under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. (Community Safety Partnerships have a duty to develop a strategic plan to address multi-agency issues affecting quality of life for residents including crime and anti-social behaviour.) <i>(2022 – 2027 Plan endorsed by Cabinet 21.9.23 and adopted by Council 12.10.22)</i></li> <li>Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy – annual review. <i>(Current strategy 2022 to 2027 – adopted by Cabinet 17.1.23)</i></li> </ul>	<p><u>1<sup>st</sup> August 2023</u> Update provided re issues raised at the meeting on 6-2-23</p> <p><u>26<sup>th</sup> March 2024</u></p>
10. <b>Corporate Safeguarding Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Policy <i>(adopted by Cabinet 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Council 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022)</i></li> <li>Further to the rollout of the refreshed policy; how it has worked in practice, the outputs, and feedback on training (OSMC 15-2-22)</li> </ul>	Chair of Scrutiny updated throughout 2023/24
11. <b>Local Flood Risk Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Review of the Council’s Flood Risk Management Plan, including progress against the Action Plan.</li> <li>Pre-decision scrutiny of revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (OSMC 7-3-23 )</li> </ul>	<p><u>5<sup>th</sup> December 2023</u> The Council’s new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was brought to the Committee, for pre-decision scrutiny, prior to its submission to the Cabinet for approval in early 2024. The Committee made a number of comments and recommended that reference within the strategy to the work and engagement undertaken with and alongside other local authorities in respect of surface water should be strengthened.</p>



		<p><u>27<sup>th</sup> February 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee considered the annual review of activity in respect of local flood risk management, including presentations in relation to a pilot Mental Health and Wellbeing project and the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team in responding to events of severe weather. An outline of the action plan for the next twelve months was also given.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project, as an excellent initiative, and recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts be made to raise the awareness of all Councillors in respect of the benefits and possibilities in relation to the use of property level protection against flooding.</li> <li>• Engagement with Yorkshire Water be pursued at a regional level to examine the potential to reduce contamination spills from combined sewer overflows in severe weather.</li> <li>• Consideration be given to providing information, in the event of severe weather, to ensure that people who may be experiencing flooding for the first time are aware of who to contact for advice and assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Kirklees Active Leisure</b></p>	<p>Scrutiny of the review taking a strategic approach to the future leisure centre offer provided by KAL, the not-for-profit charity that manages ten leisure facilities throughout Kirklees, and associated consultation</p>	<p><u>1<sup>st</sup> August 2023</u></p> <p>It was recommended that:</p> <p>(1) The views of the Committee be sought during the review consultation period and that the results of the analysis of the different models of operation be provided to Members of the Committee when available.</p> <p>(2) The importance of the links with health and wellbeing be acknowledged.</p> <p><u>5<sup>th</sup> December 2023</u></p> <p>The Committee received an update in respect of the consultation on the future offer in respect of the Leisure Centres and considered the report that was to be submitted to Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> December.</p>

A number of recommendations were put forward to the Cabinet, including:

(i) the importance of:

- Ensuring sustainability for the future and building headroom into the budget to respond to future challenges, such as a rise in energy costs.
- The development of a forward plan for future capital investment across all sites.
- Systems to ensure oversight by the Council and early identification of any future funding issues.
- Developing and building upon the relationships and partnerships that have been established with community groups and other stakeholders in order to; maximise the possibilities for external funding opportunities and fundraising, and explore all options in respect of the future model, including pricing structure.
- Effective communication with residents about the benefits of retaining the current partnership model and to ensure understanding of the issues and the implications of the proposals.
- Establishing a timetable for the establishment of the future model.
- The recognition that the facilities contribute to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Kirklees and have a positive impact in terms of social connectivity.

The Committee also:

- Acknowledged the significant response to the consultation and the work undertaken to analyse the responses
- Welcomed the proposed review to identify any lessons learned for future Council consultations.
- Recognised the benefits of fundraising by community groups being directed towards supporting capital projects.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noted:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That a future plan for physical activity across Dewsbury is to be developed and the feasibility of keeping dry-side facilities at Dewsbury Sports Centre will be explored, whilst balancing the sustainability of the whole of the model. It is recommended that timescales for this work should be put in place.</li> <li>- That Deighton Sports Arena will remain open, and continue to be operated by KAL, in the short term so that options to maintain community access to the facility can be explored.</li> <li>- That the position in respect of the revised treatment of VAT for leisure centres is to be explored.</li> <li>- The re-modelling of finances undertaken by KAL to increase income.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>9<sup>th</sup> January 2024</u> Update provided in respect of Cabinet decision (12<sup>th</sup> December 2023)</p>
<p>13. Procurement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Challenges and future plans</li> </ul>	<p><u>9<sup>th</sup> January 2024</u> A detailed report which provided an update on procurement was considered. The Portfolio Holder and the Head of Procurement responded to members’ questions and comments. It was requested that an update be presented to the Committee, further to the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023.</p>
<p>14. Asset Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pre-decision scrutiny of Asset Management Strategy, including proposals for engagement</li> </ul>	<p><u>24<sup>th</sup> October 2023</u> The Committee received a report which provided a summary of the approach to property asset management, and the use of good practice in developing and bringing forward the Council’s Corporate Property Strategy It was resolved that the strategy be brought back to the Committee for further consideration at an appropriate point.</p>

15. People Strategy/People Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact for/on transformation</li> </ul>	<p><u>9<sup>th</sup> January 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee received a report which provided an update on the implementation of the People Strategy including the work undertaken to date and the plans for the next phase. Feedback was sought from Members and it was noted that the points raised would be taken into account in the future delivery of the strategy.</p>
16. Overview of Scrutiny Work Programmes	<p>Maintain an overview of the Work Programmes of the four Panels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s</li> <li>• Environment and Climate</li> <li>• Growth and Regeneration</li> <li>• Health and Adult Social Care</li> </ul> <p>and receive regular updates from Lead Members</p>	<p><u>1<sup>st</sup> August 2023</u></p> <p>Panel Work Programmes for 2023/24 endorsed.</p> <p><u>Lead Member Updates:</u></p> <p>Children and Health &amp; Adult Social Care - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023  Growth &amp; Regeneration and Environment &amp; Climate Change – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023  Children and Health &amp; Adult Social Care – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024</p>
17. Social Isolation/Loneliness	<p>Scrutiny work in relation to social isolation and loneliness, with specific reference to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on evidence relating to young people.</li> <li>• Production of final report</li> </ul>	<p>OSMC Informal 26-3-24</p>
18. West Yorkshire Joint Services – Activity in Kirklees	<p>Director to attend to give members a briefing on the work being undertaken by WYJS with a focus on work in Kirklees by WYJSC</p>	<p><u>24<sup>th</sup> October 2023</u></p> <p>The Director of West Yorkshire Joint Services (WYJS) attended the meeting and gave a presentation about the work of the organisation, with a particular focus on work within Kirklees. A briefing note had been included with the agenda for the meeting which explained that WYJS delivered a number of shared services, including a number of statutory services, on behalf of the five West Yorkshire Councils.</p> <p>The Director was thanked for the presentation and it was requested that copies of the ‘Little Book of Big Scams’ be shared with the Committee.</p>

		<p><u>5<sup>th</sup> December 2023</u> Update given with a response to the questions put to the Director at the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October.</p>
<p><b>19. Mental Health Services for Older People – JOHSC Establishment</b></p>		<p><u>5<sup>th</sup> September 2023</u> Agreed that the nominations for Kirklees representation on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with Calderdale and Wakefield Councils, should be sought from the main political groups (Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green) on the basis of 1:1:1:1.</p>
<b>LEAD MEMBER BRIEFING ISSUES</b>		
THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	LEAD OFFICER/NOTES
<b>1. Risk</b>	Risk reports circulated to Members of OSMC for consideration prior to each meeting.	Briefings held with the Council's Head of Risk on regular basis in line with risk reporting schedule.
<b>2. Performance Reporting</b>	Performance reports circulated to Members of OSMC for consideration prior to each meeting	
<b>3. Budget Engagement</b>		LM Briefing 15-11-23
<b>4. Innovative Working in Kirklees</b>		LM briefing
<b>5. Corporate Landlord Function</b>	Challenges and future plans	LM Bfg 31-8-23
<b>6. Challenges to Delivery</b>		LM briefing tba
<b>7. Grant Funding Distribution to Anchor Organisations</b>	Update on contract, including locality plans to be shared	
<b>8. Regional Working</b>	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mechanics of how Kirklees is working with the WYMCA and the relationship between the two.</li> <li>- Funding streams and Kirklees approach</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How funding bids are considered</li> <li>- The project plan</li> </ul> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with Kirklees Members of WYMCA Scrutiny Committees</li> <li>• Funding and Kirklees' approach</li> </ul>	
<b>9. Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement</b>	Approach to engagement and communication with Ward Councillors on arrangements that span more than one ward such as PCNs and schools as community hubs.	Information awaited re future PCN landscape (role of wider teams involved with primary care and development of place-based approach to health outcomes, CG&AC)
<b>10. Armed Forces Covenant</b>	Monitor the Council's work in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant.	<p><u>20<sup>th</sup> June 2023</u></p> <p>Committee noted the update on the work of the Kirklees Armed Forces Board, including the ongoing work with partner and voluntary organisations including the budget position, welcomed the work with housing services to help Armed Forces Personnel navigate the housing processes welcomed and recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A survey be developed to hear the voice and understand the need of Armed Services personnel locally</li> <li>- Discussions be undertaken with health organisations to allow the Council to understand how they are working with the Covenant.</li> <li>- Statistical information relating to the take up of e-learning training be provided in future updates to the Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>11. Data and Insight Strategy</b>	Update	Discussed with PH/SD
<b>12. Libraries Service</b>	Update	<p>LM Briefing 25-9-23</p> <p>LM Bfg 1-2-24</p> <p>Informal OSMC 26-3-24</p>
<b>13. Inclusion and Diversity</b>		<p>LM Bfg 12/9/23</p> <p>LM Bfg 7-11-23</p>